

CONFERENCE *connection*

Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi
South Carolina • Tennessee • NW Florida

SOUTHEAST UCC Conference



March 1, 2017

From the Conference Office

IMPORTANT Yearbook Information

Action Required by March 8, 2017

This is a reminder that all church annual reports must be submitted online by March 8. Please contact Heather Bardole at registrar@secucc.org or 404-719-6572 if you need assistance or have completed the report. Instructions for using the Data Hub [are on our website](#).

Join us for a Conference Minister Transition Celebration
as we say farewell to Rev. June Boutwell and we welcome
Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi



Conference Minister Transition Celebration

Saturday, March 4, 2017 | 2:00 pm at First Congregational in Atlanta

Saturday, March 4, 2017

2:00-3:30 p.m.

The Commons at First Congregational Church
125 Ellis Street NE, Atlanta Georgia

Light refreshments will be served

FREE parking is available in the CARE parking deck
(151 Ellis Street, immediately to the left of the Commons)

So we can get an accurate headcount, please RSVP.

RSVP NOW

June's Jottings

by June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister

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Coming Events

Conference Minister Transition Celebration

Saturday, March 4
2:00-3:30 pm
First Congregational
Church, Atlanta GA

Jan Whiteman Installation

Sunday, March 5
First United Church
Belvidere TN

SECUCC Staff Meeting

Monday, March 6
10:00 am
Atlanta, GA

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (1 Corinthians 10:15-17 NRSV)



I have been reflecting on my time in the Southeast Conference and am so grateful for all the lessons learned and the memories I will carry with me from this place. I am headed, after Easter, to do a local church interim at Zion's Reformed Church in Greenville, Pennsylvania. Those who wish to stay in touch can contact me at revjuneb@gmail.com.

The last few weeks have been a time of the circle coming round full. In February 2014 Randy Hyvonen called me while I was driving to Atlanta to let me know that a tornado had severely damaged the roof of Beloved Community Church in Birmingham. I began my ministry among you by talking with pastors and insurance adjusters from the road. On February 12, 2017 I was with Beloved Community Church to install their new pastor, Jennifer Sanders. I acknowledged that journey with them from challenge to celebration.

The first weekend of my ministry here, I attended the Alabama Tennessee Association meeting. At the close of that meeting, I followed Debbie Douglas from Birmingham to Belvidere (a very long drive) to attend the Men's Fellowship Fish Fry and preach on Sunday. Sunday, March 5 is my last official day in the Southeast Conference and I will be in Belvidere, Tennessee to install their new pastor, Jan Whiteman.

There are many other wonderful Holy Spirit stories that I could share if space allowed. Please know that I have been blessed beyond measure by the warmth, welcome, and respect you have shown me during my tenure here. There were also times of stress and challenge, but the blessing always outweighs the burden and so I hope that I leave here having been a blessing to the members and churches of this Conference.

Some of you were present at the special meeting called to elect me to this office. You will remember that I shared my history by a display of various cups that were associated with my racial/ethnic heritage and my varied ministry settings. I will leave here with several new cups in my collection. You may also recall that I closed my presentation with the chalice from the 2013 General Synod held in Long Beach, California where I served on the local arrangements committee. And I reminded us all that this cup is the only one we need pay attention to for it is the cup poured out for us by Divine Love that we might have life and have it abundantly.

I leave you with the promise that you will all remain in my heart and my prayers. And I share with you a verse of one of my favorite hymns, *One Bread, One Body* (John B. Foley, 1978), as a reminder of how we are all connected across good boundaries and despite distance.

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

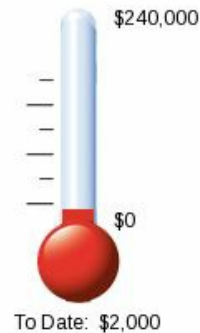
African American Women in Ministry Conference

Thu-Sat, March 9-11
Franklinton Center
Whitakers, NC

Commission on Ministry

Saturday, March 25
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Pilgrim UCC
Chattanooga, TN

OCWM Giving



Our Church's Wider Mission provides for programs, resources, and tools to keep our churches strong, effective, and growing. Our goal for 2017 is \$240,000.

[Donate today!](#)

Conference Staff

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Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2017. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2017 prayer list.](#)

Week of March 5

- United Church of Cookeville; Cookeville, Tennessee
- PATHWAYS Theological Education Program
- Roy Bain
- Douglas Farmer
- Vant Hardaway
- David Speno

Week of March 12

- Rehoboth Fellowship; Atlanta, Georgia
- UCC National Staff and Collegium
- David Buttrick
- Valerie Coe Lowder
- Tavye Morgan

Prayer Requests

- Continued prayers for **Rev. Gary Myers** as he continues to recover from mild stroke.
- Prayers for **Rev. June Boutwell** as she returns to California for a month and then on to her new ministry in Pennsylvania.
- Prayers for **Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi** as she begins her ministry as Interim Conference Minister on March 6, 2017
- Prayers for **Rev. Rodney Franklin**, Senior Minister at First Congregational Birmingham as he is part of a UCC leadership delegation that will be visiting the Middle East to engage with partners and learn about the impacts of the use of economic leverage. This is one of many implementation efforts the national setting is taking around the 2015 General Synod resolution, "[A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict](#)".

Conference Transitions

- **Patricia Keeler**, serving as Chaplain at University of Alabama Birmingham Medical Center, and **Sonya Gravelee**, serving as Chaplain at St. Vincent's East Hospital in Birmingham, were installed under four-way covenants at Beloved Community Church on February 26, 2017. **Marcia Bentley** represented the Commission on Ministry.
- **Ann Michelle Brigham Rogers** will begin as Designated Minister at Safe Harbor Family Church in Flowood, Mississippi with the Ash Wednesday service on March 2, 2017.
- **Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi** will begin her service as

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Connect with Us!



Interim Conference Minister on March 6, 2017. She will be attending the Council of Conference Ministers meeting her first week and will be available in the Conference as of March 13.

- **Scott Williamson** has been called as Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His start date is yet to be determined.

Churches in Transition

Oak Grove Congregational Christian, Pine Mountain Georgia; Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; United Church, Huntsville, Tennessee; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville Tennessee.

News from Around the Conference

Partners in Service Volunteers at Uspiritus

Mary and Bill Ruth, from SEC Pleasant Hill Community UCC, are commissioned UCC Partners in Service Volunteers at Uspiritus in Louisville KY for three months (Jan-Mar 2017). They are full time residential volunteers supporting the administrative/development arm of Uspiritus which gives them the opportunity to donate their career skills while in retirement. Uspiritus is a 12-12-12 merger of UCC and Presbyterian homes for children in Louisville. [Learn more on our website.](#)

Global Ministries Speaker Available

Kahala Cannon, a missionary who has served in South Korea and India, and who is from Tennessee (member of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church Disciples of Christ) is available to speak in the Southeast Conference June 1 - 29, 2017. Global Ministries will be responsible for her transportation to the region/conference, and we request that the receiving congregations provide housing, meals, and local transportation. [Learn more on our website.](#)

News from the United Church of Christ

One Great Hour of Sharing is March 26

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. The suggested offering date for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in 2017 is Sunday, March 26. [Learn more on our website.](#)

Open and Affirming Webinars

Is your congregation already Open and Affirming, and wondering what's next? Or are you just taking your first steps towards an ONA covenant? The ONA Coalition provides a full range of webinars for ONA and not-yet-ONA congregations. Leader is Andy Lang, the Coalition's executive director and an experienced church communications professional. We promise you'll find at least one webinar that meets your church's needs! [Learn more on the UCC website.](#)

Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference

In these times of uncertainty and division, UCC members

throughout the country are searching for meaningful ways to work for positive change and to live out their faith. In the face of great injustice, how do we work together towards a just world for all? How do we sustain our wearied spirits in the struggle? The 2017 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference in Washington, DC, April 21-24 provides a wonderful opportunity to engage that work. It is an opportunity to build up our base of faith-rooted advocates so that the UCC is ready to respond and work for a better world. [Learn more on their website.](#)

Training, Learning and Retreat Opportunities

Transform Your Worship Experience! A Worship Workshop with Dr. Marcia McFee

Kirkwood UCC invites you to bring your team (program staff, worship associates, artists, musicians and other interested people) to discover ways to enliven and deepen your congregation's worship services. This conference will help you layer visual, auditory and experiential elements into a transformative worship experience. Breakfast and Lunch included. [Learn more on the KUCC website.](#)

In the Footsteps of Martin Luther

A 10-day Tour to Germany: October 28 - November 6, 2017
Especially designed for North Port Community United Church of Christ, North Port, Florida. For full brochure visit [FaithJourneys website](#). Group Number: 17054

Job Opportunities

"Younger Youth" Minister Position

Kirkwood UCC in Atlanta is looking for a "Younger Youth" Minister who will be responsible for Coordinating and Leading our 3rd-6th grade children's Ministry. More details can be found on the KUCC website: kirkwooducc.com/younger-youth-job/